

The newly-discovered Extinct Gigantic Bird of South Australia.—At the recent Meeting of the British Association at Liverpool a letter was read in Section D, addressed to Prof. Newton by Dr. Stirling of Adelaide, giving a preliminary account of the extinct gigantic bird of the *Diprotodon*-beds in South Australia, to the discovery of which we have alluded on former occasions (see ‘Ibis,’ 1894, p. 328, p. 577, and 1896, p. 430). Dr. Stirling says:—“The bird is, no doubt, more of an Emeu than anything else, though the head, unfortunately much broken, is very different; but, as regards the limb- (leg-) bones, it has the proportions of the thick-set Moas in the thigh-bone and tibia, and of the slender-legged Moas in the tarsus, with absurdly small toes for such a bulk. It is quite true that the outer toe has only four segments, as has been stated in ‘Nature’ (*cf.* ‘Nature,’ vol. 1. p. 206, 1894).” The paper describing this most interesting discovery by Dr. Stirling and Mr. Zietz has been read at a Meeting of the Royal Society of South Australia, and will shortly be in print. The name proposed for the new bird is *Genyornis newtoni*; *Genyornis* being in reference to the large size of the lower jaw, and the specific term to Prof. Newton, to whom the species is dedicated.

LI.—*Obituary.*

LORD LILFORD.—It was with the deepest regret that we announced in our last Part the sad loss which the British Ornithologists’ Union had sustained by the death of one who had been for many years its President, and an original member of the brotherhood formed in November 1858. At the time (June 18th) it was not possible to give any adequate sketch of our late President’s career, and even now we wish that the record of such a genial man, thorough naturalist, and good sportsman had fallen to more capable hands.

Thomas Lyttleton Powys, fourth Baron Lilford, born 18th March, 1833, was the son of the third peer by the Hon. Mary Elizabeth Fox, daughter of the third Lord Holland. Even when at Harrow he had begun to contribute to the ‘Zoo-

logist,' and he continued to do so while at Christ Church, Oxford, as well as during his vacations, while it is hardly necessary to say that his subsequent letters and articles in that and other periodicals only ceased with his life. His first communication to 'The Ibis' was in 1860, on the birds observed in the Ionian Islands and on the coast of Albania, &c., in the years 1857 and 1858: a very breezy, pleasant series of articles, with just the flavour of sport about the natural history that a new publication wanted. To these succeeded—in 1865 and 1866—some charming notes on Spain, which Lord Lilford had visited in 1856 and again in 1864. He was so delighted with the country that he not only returned in 1869, but devoted himself to working up the ornithology of the southern portion, and that he did not write about his experiences in the *marismas* of the Guadalquivir was probably due to his delicate aversion for anything like trespassing upon ground worked by others. His liking for everything Spanish led him to learn that language; but his natural aptitude for such study must have been considerable, for in 1869, when the writer had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance in Seville, he spoke Castilian admirably, and also its dialects with a raciness acquired by few Englishmen. In 1873 and 1874, Lord Lilford, already somewhat crippled by the rheumatic gout to which he had long been subject, and to which he subsequently became a martyr, visited the Italian shores of the Mediterranean in the yacht 'Zara,' and on that excursion he re-discovered that rare Gull, *Larus audouini*, of which no one had seen a fresh specimen for many a year. In 1875 portions of Cyprus were visited, as will be mentioned hereafter. In the same yacht, in the spring of 1876, he visited Santander and the neighbouring parts of north-western Spain; but it fell to the lot of his friend, Lt.-Col. Irby, to give an account of the avifauna of this district (Ibis, 1883, p. 173). In the early part of 1882 the Mediterranean again attracted his attention, and another haunt of Audouin's Gull was explored—not to mention a previous discovery of it on an islet which was not named in print, though an open secret for the discreet. But these voyages had to be abandoned at last, and the personal

exploration of Cyprus was reserved for Dr. Guillemard and others, though Lord Lilford contributed to the expedition with his wonted liberality, and wrote a list of the birds of that island. Henceforward he devoted himself to work at home: his magnificent aviaries, where birds could be observed in a state of freedom only second to that of nature, his natural-history correspondence, his 'Birds of Northamptonshire' and his 'Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands.' Always an ardent sportsman, Lord Lilford took an active part in hawking as long as he could; he constructed a decoy in the valley of the Nene, and even at the last, when confined to a bath-chair, he attended a meet of the otter-hounds in his neighbourhood. Although he had been ailing, the end came unexpectedly on June 17th, with a sudden attack of syncope; and on the 20th he was buried at Achurch, near Lilford Hall, amid widespread and genuine mourning.

It is impossible to specify Lord Lilford's acts of liberality with regard to this journal. Whenever money was wanted for an illustration, or the balance in hand was low, he only required an intimation. This generosity was by no means confined to 'The Ibis' and kindred works on science; the Zoological Society's Gardens were constantly enriched by his gifts; and we have heard it stated that his anonymous benefactions were more than double those with which his name was associated. To his intimate knowledge of wild animals and their ways he added an excellent judgment, and few were better qualified to hold the balance between the sportsman on the one side and the well-meaning, but often unpractical, lover of birds on the other. His death is a general loss.

The following is a list of Lord Lilford's principal publications on Ornithology:—

- Notes on Birds observed in the Ionian Islands, and the Provinces of Albania proper, Epirus, Acarnania, and Montenegro. *Ibis*, 1860, p. 1, p. 133, p. 228, and p. 338.
- On the Extinction in Europe of the Common Francolin (*Francolinus vulgaris*, Steph.). *Ibis*, 1862, p. 352.

- Notes on the Ornithology of Spain. *Ibis*, 1865, p. 166; 1866, p. 173 and p. 377.
- Letter on the occurrence of *Calandrella reboudia* [*C. bætica*, Dresser] and *Numenius hudsonicus* in Spain. *Ibis*, 1873, p. 98.
- Cruise of the 'Zara,' R. Y. S., in the Mediterranean. *Ibis*, 1875, p. 1.
- Exhibition of some specimens of Hybrid Pheasants. P. Z. S. 1880, p. 421.
- On the Breeding of the Flamingo in Southern Spain. P. Z. S. 1880, p. 446.
- Letter on a probably new locality for *Larus audouini*. *Ibis*, 1880, p. 480.
- Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire. Journ. Northampt. Nat. Hist. Soc. i. (1880-83).
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of *Emberiza rustica*. P. Z. S. 1882, p. 721.
- Notes on the Birds of Seville. *Ibis*, 1883, p. 233.
- Rare Birds in Andalucia. *Ibis*, 1884, p. 124.
- Notes on Mediterranean Ornithology. *Ibis*, 1887, p. 261.
- Exhibition of a specimen of *Aquila rapax* from Southern Spain. P. Z. S. 1888, p. 248.
- Pallas's Sand-Grouse in Spain. *Zoologist*, 1888, p. 301.
- Notes on Raptorial Birds in the Lilford Aviaries. Trans. Norfolk & Norw. Nat. Soc. iv. p. 564 (1888).
- A List of the Birds of Cyprus. *Ibis*, 1889, p. 305.
- A Large Race of the Great Grey Shrike. *Zoologist*, 1890, p. 108.
- Notes on Birds in the Lilford Aviaries. Trans. Norfolk & Norw. Nat. Soc. v. p. 128 (1891).
- Letter on the Nesting-habits of the Bustard-Quail (*Turnix nigricollis*). *Ibis*, 1892, p. 467.
- Variety of *Grus cinerea* in Spain. *Zoologist*, 1892, p. 265.
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of a Duck believed to be a Hybrid between the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) and the Teal (*Querquedula crecca*). P. Z. S. 1895, p. 2.
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a specimen of the American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*). P. Z. S. 1895, p. 273.
- Brünnich's Guillemot in Cambridgeshire. *Zoologist*, 1895, p. 109.
- Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire and Neighbourhood. Illustrated by Messrs. A. Thorburn and G. E. Lodge and a Map. Royal 8vo. London, 1895.
- Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Parts i.-xxxii. Royal 8vo. London, 1885-96.